

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A coloring agent amount recording apparatus recording an amount of a printing coloring agent, said apparatus comprising:

an information obtaining portion obtaining information on an amount of the printing coloring agent that is consumed, wherein said amount was not used in actual printing; and

an information writing portion writing onto a recording medium the information on the amount obtained by said information obtaining portion;

wherein said recording medium is attached to a cartridge containing the printing coloring agent.

2. (CANCELED).

3. (ORIGINAL) A coloring agent amount recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said printing coloring agent is ink or toner.

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (ORIGINAL) A coloring agent amount recording apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein said amount not used in actual printing includes an amount of the printing coloring agent used when maintenance of a printing mechanism is carried out.

6. (ORIGINAL) A coloring agent amount recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said information obtaining portion obtains the information on the amount not used in actual printing for each of the colors of the printing coloring agent, and wherein said information writing portion writes onto the recording medium the information of each of the colors obtained by said information obtaining portion.

7. (ORIGINAL) A coloring agent amount recording apparatus according to Claim 1, said apparatus being a part of a printing apparatus carrying out printing with the printing coloring agent.

Claims 8 to 20 - (CANCELLED)

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A coloring agent cartridge containing a printing coloring agent, said cartridge comprising a recording medium on which information on an amount of the printing coloring agent that is consumed is recorded, wherein said amount was not used in actual printing;
wherein said recording medium is attached to said cartridge containing the printing coloring agent.

Claims 22-25 - (CANCELLED)

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printer comprising at least one coloring agent amount recording apparatus of claim 1.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printer comprising at least one coloring agent cartridge of claim 21.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A coloring agent amount recording apparatus recording an amount of a printing coloring agent, said apparatus comprising:

an information obtaining portion obtaining information on an amount of the printing coloring agent that is consumed, wherein said amount was used when maintenance of a printing mechanism is carried out; and

an information writing portion writing onto a recording medium the information on the amount obtained by said information obtaining portion;

wherein said recording medium is attached to a cartridge containing the printing coloring agent.